

209th Aviation Support Battalion

The 209th Support Battalion was first constituted in the Regular Army as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD), 1st Battalion, 54th Quartermaster Regiment (Heavy Maintenance) on 1 May 1936 and activated at Fort Devens, Massachusetts on 1 June 1941. On 1 August 1942 it was converted and re-designated as HHD, 1st Battalion, 54th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Regiment and on 7 October 1942 it was re-designated as HHD, 185th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Battalion. On 26 May 1943 the battalion was re-designated as HHD, 185th Ordnance Battalion. In WWII the 185th participated in five major European campaigns; Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. The battalion was inactivated in France on 16 October 1946.

The battalion was reactivated on 28 May 1954 and stationed at the Red River Arsenal, Texas. The 185th was stationed at Fort Hood Texas when it was ordered to Vietnam. Arriving in Vietnam on 2 August 1965 the battalion was assigned to the 29th General Support Group and based at Long Binh outside of Saigon. HHD, 185th Ordnance Battalion was reorganized and re-designated as Headquarters and Main Support Company 185th Maintenance Battalion (Direct Support) on 20 July 1966. The battalion remained based at Long Binh where it performed maintenance and supply support for non-divisional units throughout Military Region III both at Long Binh and through mobile contact teams. The 185th Maintenance Battalion is one of only a very few US Army units to hold the distinction of participating in 16 of the 17 campaigns of the Vietnam War from Vietnam Defense to Cease Fire. The battalion also received a Meritorious Unit Commendation. The 185th departed Vietnam on 21 October 1972 and was inactivated on 10 November 1972 at the Oakland Army Base, California.

On 4 May 2004 Headquarters and Main Support Company 185th Maintenance Battalion was re-designated and reorganized as Headquarters and Support Company, 209th Support Battalion (organic elements concurrently constituted). The 209th Support Battalion was activated at Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii on 16 November 2005 as an aviation support battalion and assigned to the Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. In addition to the headquarters and support company, the battalion consists of a distribution company, an aviation maintenance company and a signal company.

The battalion deployed to Iraq from July of 2006 until September 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08 and again from September 2009 until August 2010 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-11. The battalion received Meritorious Unit Citations for both tours to Iraq. The battalion deployed to Afghanistan from January of 2012 until January 2013 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion received the LTG Ellis D. Parker Award for the tour to Afghanistan. The Soldiers, Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the 209th Aviation Support Battalion are executing the mission enabling the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade to Fly for the Troops; standing strong in the motto "Support or Die."